

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CUBAN OFFICIAL GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

1. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 25, VILMA ESPIN, HEAD OF CUBA'S DELEGATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE (WCIWY) AND RAUL CASTRO'S WIFE, SAID THAT A REPROCHMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CUBA IS POSSIBLE AND THAT MANY U.S. BUSINESSMEN ARE INTERESTED IN ACCESS TO THE CUBAN MARKET. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, SHE SAID: "WE DID NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.; THEY WERE THE ONES WHO ESTABLISHED THE BLOCKADE OF MY COUNTRY."

2. ELABORATING ON THE BLOCKADE, VILMA ESPIN SAID: "WHEN THE BLOCKADE WAS DECLARED, CUBA LIVED THROUGH HARD AND DIFFICULT TIMES -- IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT CUBA WAS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. -- BUT THE SUPPORT OF THE USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THEIR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, PERMITTED THE CUBAN PEOPLE TO SUCCEED IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EMANCIPATION."

3. IN RESPONSE TO A CANADIAN JOURNALIST'S QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A WOMAN COULD BE PRIME MINISTER OF CUBA, VILMA ESPIN SAID THAT AT PRESENT "IT IS AN AUDACITY (UNA AUDACIA)" TO EVEN THINK OF REPLACING FIDEL CASTRO AS PRIME MINISTER OF CUBA.

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4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER VIOLENCE WAS THE ONLY MEANS TO ACHIEVE

THE LIBERATION OF PEOPLES, VILMA ESPIN REPLIED: "I DO NOT KNOW
OF ANY CASE IN WHICH A REVOLUTION SUCCEEDED WITHOUT HAVING TO
RESORT TO VIOLENCE, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THIS ROUTE (I.E.
A NON-VIOLENTONE) DOES NOT EXIST."
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